

June 7, 1985

TO: File

FROM: Everett Hooper, Reclamation Soils Specialist

RE: Interstate Brick Company, Koosharem Clay Mine,
ACT/031/002, Piute County, Utah

On May 22, 1985, Steve Cox and Everett Hooper from the Division met with Ronald Baldwin of Interstate Brick and Darrel Hintze from the Fish Lake National Forest. The site visit was conducted to enable members of the Division staff to become familiar with the size and scope of the mining operation.

The mining operation has proceeded in two separate steps. The initial operation began on U. S. Forest Service (USFS) property leased by Mr. Fuller. The second phase was conducted on state lands.

During the tour, it was pointed out that mining operations are only carried out on a demand basis and that no mining would be conducted for the next two years unless the demand for the particular brick made from the clay increased.

The area of mining operation on federal land has been discontinued indefinitely. The area of disturbance on USFS property has been graded to allow all drainage to flow toward the pit. During the site visit, no signs of erosion were evident. Mr. Hintze indicated that the USFS has had no problem with erosion due to the mining operation. Ground water does not seem to pose any problem. The site is at or near the crest of a rolling hill. No signs of seeps or springs were noticed.

During 1980, an area of the mining operation on the USFS ground was reseeded and at the present, supports an excellent growth of wheatgrass.

Mr. Baldwin could not give a firm commitment to the life of mine due to the fluctuation in the demand for brick, but committed to providing an estimate.

Topsoil from both the USFS property and state property was removed and stockpiled. The volume of soil available for reclamation is limited due to the shallowness of the topsoil found under natural conditions.

btb

cc: Steve Cox
Pam Grubaugh-Littig
Tom Munson
Rick Smith
John Whitehead

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